

Grand International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers,

—AND—

GRAND LODGE OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN.

CLEVELAND, OHIO,
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA, } January 7th, 1889.

JOINT CIRCULAR No. 2.

To all Subordinate Divisions and Lodges:

SIRS AND BROTHERS:—Preliminary to the report herewith submitted with reference to the C., B. & Q. strike, it may be necessary to state that at the late Convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, held at Richmond, Va., a committee of nine was appointed to examine into the condition of the strike, and devise ways and means whereby it might be brought to a close. The chairman of said committee, Bro. A. R. Canner, was directed to make a tour of inspection of the C., B. & Q. system, visit each point, and hold meetings with the men, with a view to gaining a definite and intelligent understanding of the situation, and thereupon to convene the above named committee, and, after due and careful consideration, to decide upon a line of action best calculated to benefit the striking employes and the respective organizations involved in the difficulty. Bro. Canner made his tour of inspection, and thereupon convened the committee, which was composed (in addition to the chairman) of the following named brethren, viz.:

Wm. C. Hayes.....of Division No. 186, Minneapolis, Minn.	Edw. Kent.....of Division No. 135, Jersey City, N. J.
A. W. Perley.....“ “ “ 362, LaGrande, Oregon.	Thos. Humphreys.....“ “ “ 34, Columbus, O.
A. W. Logan.....“ “ “ 16, Galion, O.	T. P. Bellows.....“ “ “ 281, Vicksburg, Miss.
T. Hollinrake.....“ “ “ 188, Stratford, Ont.	A. Le May.....“ “ “ 176, Baraboo, Wis.

The committee being convened, Bro. Canner telegraphed the grand officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, requesting the appointment of a committee to represent the firemen in the further deliberations of that body.

Pursuant to this request, Grand Master Sargent appointed Bro. L. Mooney, of St. Joseph Lodge, No. 43, and Bro. S. W. Dixon, of Alpha Lodge, No. 26, to represent the interests of the firemen. The committee then proceeded to discharge its duties in conformity with its authority and instructions. An interview with the officials of the C., B. & Q. Company was solicited and granted. Other interviews followed, in which the strike in all its details was discussed, with a thorough appreciation of the gravity and importance of the situation.

The Committee sought by all the means at its command to secure a settlement that would be of the largest possible advantage to the strikers. Every point was brought out and thoroughly discussed, and after a careful, patient and exhaustive review of the situation, a settlement was effected which met with the unanimous approval of the Joint Committee. Preliminary to our report of the settlement, we desire to introduce the following documents, which are self-explanatory:

MR. E. P. RIPLEY, General Manager, Chicago.

CHICAGO, January 4th, 1889.

DEAR SIR:—The enclosed is a copy of the communication which I was directed to give to the Committee of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, who have been in conference with us to-day, which was accepted by them, and they have declared the strike settled.

It is important that no question should arise as to the good faith of the Company, and it is our desire and intention that there should be no opportunity for such question.

As to the meaning of the word “available,” I desire to say, that when it becomes necessary to employ men outside of those now in the service, care must be taken to consider all the qualifications that go to make up availability, including experience and familiarity with our surroundings and rules. In short, that the very best men are to be selected, regardless of personal relations, or prejudices for or against any man, or class of men.

It should further be fully understood, that the Company does not desire to pursue those who have been guilty of improper conduct during the late strike, and while such men cannot be re-employed, and while we cannot give letters to them, no officer or employe should continue the animosities of the conflict after it is over, or interfere to prevent the employment of such men elsewhere.

Yours truly,

HENRY B. STONE.

Similar letters will be sent to all the officers in charge of our different properties, and by them transmitted to their operating officers. H. B. STONE.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

BOSTON, January 3d, 1889.

TO HENRY B. STONE, Vice-President, C., B. & Q. Ry., Chicago:

I did not telegraph yesterday, as you requested, because it seemed important under the circumstances, and since we have been asked by the engineers to say what our position is, that it should be done with the authority of the whole Executive Committee. The Committee is now in session, and I am authorized, and instructed to send you the following:

“The Company will not follow up, black-list, or in any manner attempt to proscribe those who were concerned in the strike, but on the contrary, will cheerfully give to all who have not been guilty of violence, or other improper conduct, letters of introduction, showing their record in our service, and will in all proper ways, assist them in finding employment.”

“The first duty of the management is to those who are in the Company’s employ, and we must remember, and protect their interests by promotions, and by every other means in our power. Beyond this, if it should become necessary to go outside of the service for men in any capacity, it is our intention to select the best men available, and in making selections, not to exclude those who were engaged in the strike of February 27th, if they are the best men available, and provided they have not since been guilty of violence, and other improper conduct.”

You are authorized to give a copy of this message to the engineers who called upon you.

[SIGNED.]

C. E. PERKINS.

MR. A. R. CANNER, Chairman Committee Brotherhood Locomotive Engineers:

CHICAGO, January 4th, 1889.

DEAR SIR:—The above is a copy of a telegram I received yesterday from Mr. Perkins, our President, and which, in accordance, with his instructions, I have submitted to you, and which has been fully discussed with you and your Committee.

Yours truly,

HENRY B. STONE.

MR. HENRY B. STONE, Second Vice President.

CHICAGO, January 4th, 1889.

DEAR SIR:—We, the undersigned Committee, in behalf of our respective Organizations—Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen—and as representatives of the ex-employees of the Burlington System, who left the service of said Company, February 27th, 1888, or later, on account of the strike, approve of the foregoing agreement, and hereby declare the strike of the said ex-employees as settled.

Yours truly,

ALEX. R. CANNER,
A. W. PERLEY,
T. HOLLINRAKE,
THOS. HUMPHREYS,
A. LE MAY,

WM. C. HAYES,
A. W. LOGAN,
EDW. KENT,
T. P. BELLOWES,
S. W. DIXON,
L. MOONEY.

The joint committee having fulfilled its mission, due report of its proceedings was made by the chairman to the Grand Officers of the respective orders at a meeting held for that purpose at the Grand Office of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and met with their entire and unqualified approval, in testimony of which the strike of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen on the C. B. & Q. Railway system, inaugurated February 27th, 1888, is hereby officially declared at an end, and the striking employes are now at liberty to make application for situations on said system.

We are authorized to instruct all striking Engineers, Firemen, Switchmen and Brakemen, who desire to be re-employed, to file their applications at their respective division headquarters, on or before February 1st, 1889. This advice is given at the request of the officials of the Company. Applications filed after February 1st will not be considered.

Brethren, the settlement may not be all that might be expected or desired, but we feel confident that it is the best that could have been secured under the circumstances, and we hope it will be received in a spirit of amity and good faith, that all hostilities may cease, and that the “hatchet” so long held aloft in defiance may be buried out of sight all along the line.

In closing this report, we desire to urge upon Engineers and Firemen, members of the Brotherhoods everywhere, the propriety and necessity of exerting their influence in securing situations for the ex-employees of the C., B. & Q. system. These men fought a brave fight. They have earned the title of heroes and are entitled to the respect and support of their fellow toilers. In one sense they have been defeated, but they have not been degraded. They stood for principle through a long and trying ordeal, and their honor remains unblemished. Let us be generous in our recognition of their valor and unwavering fidelity to their obligation, and unite our efforts in aiding them to secure situations in their chosen calling.

Hoping that this report may be received and approved by the members of the two great Brotherhoods throughout their jurisdiction, we remain,

Yours fraternally,

P. M. ARTHUR, G. C. E.
T. S. INGRAHAM, F. G. E.
D. EVERETT, S. G. E.
H. C. HAYS, F. G. A. E.

F. P. SARGENT, Grand Master,
J. J. HANNAHAN, Vice Grand Master,
EUGENE V. DEBS, Grand Secretary,

Grand Lodge B. of L. F.

